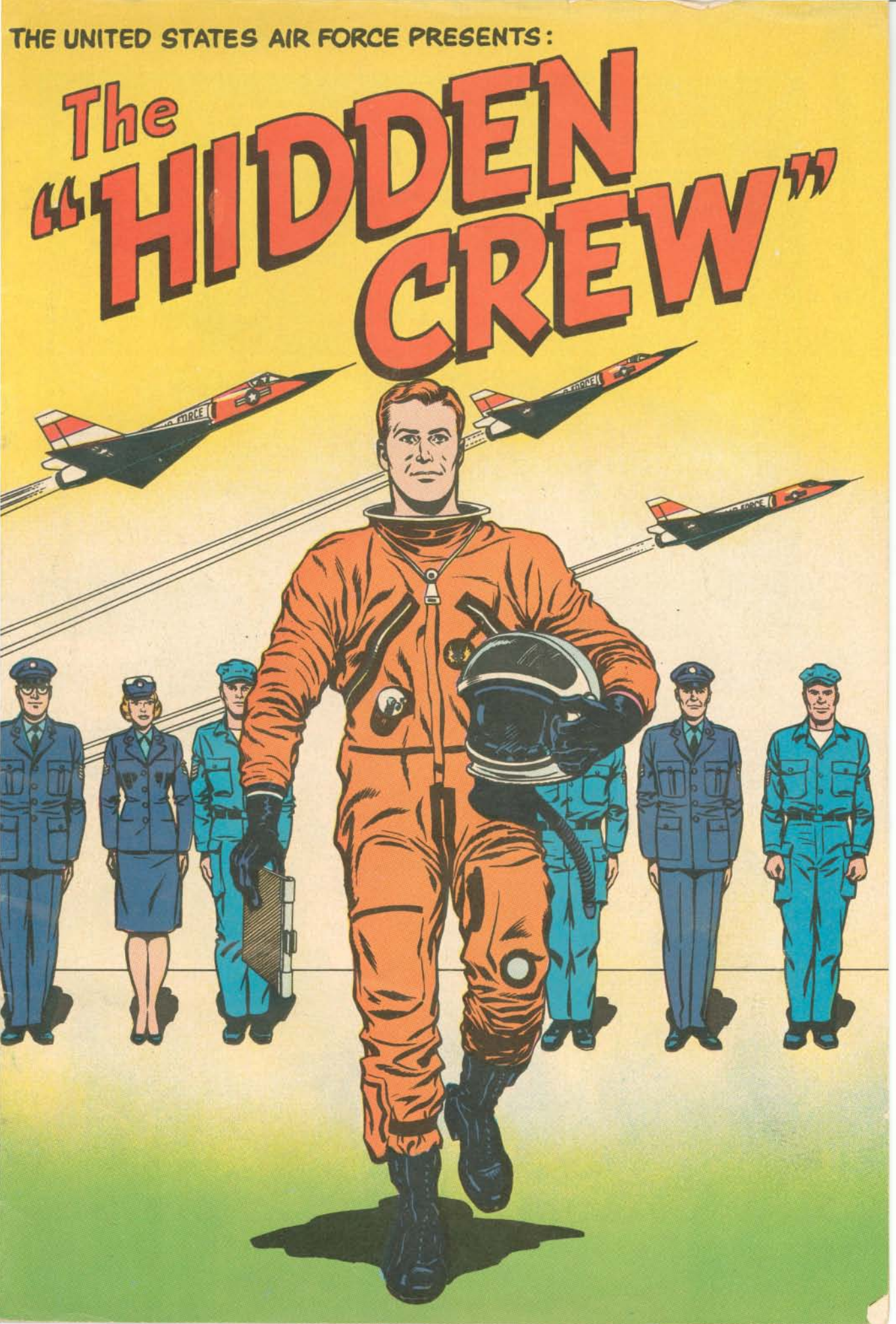
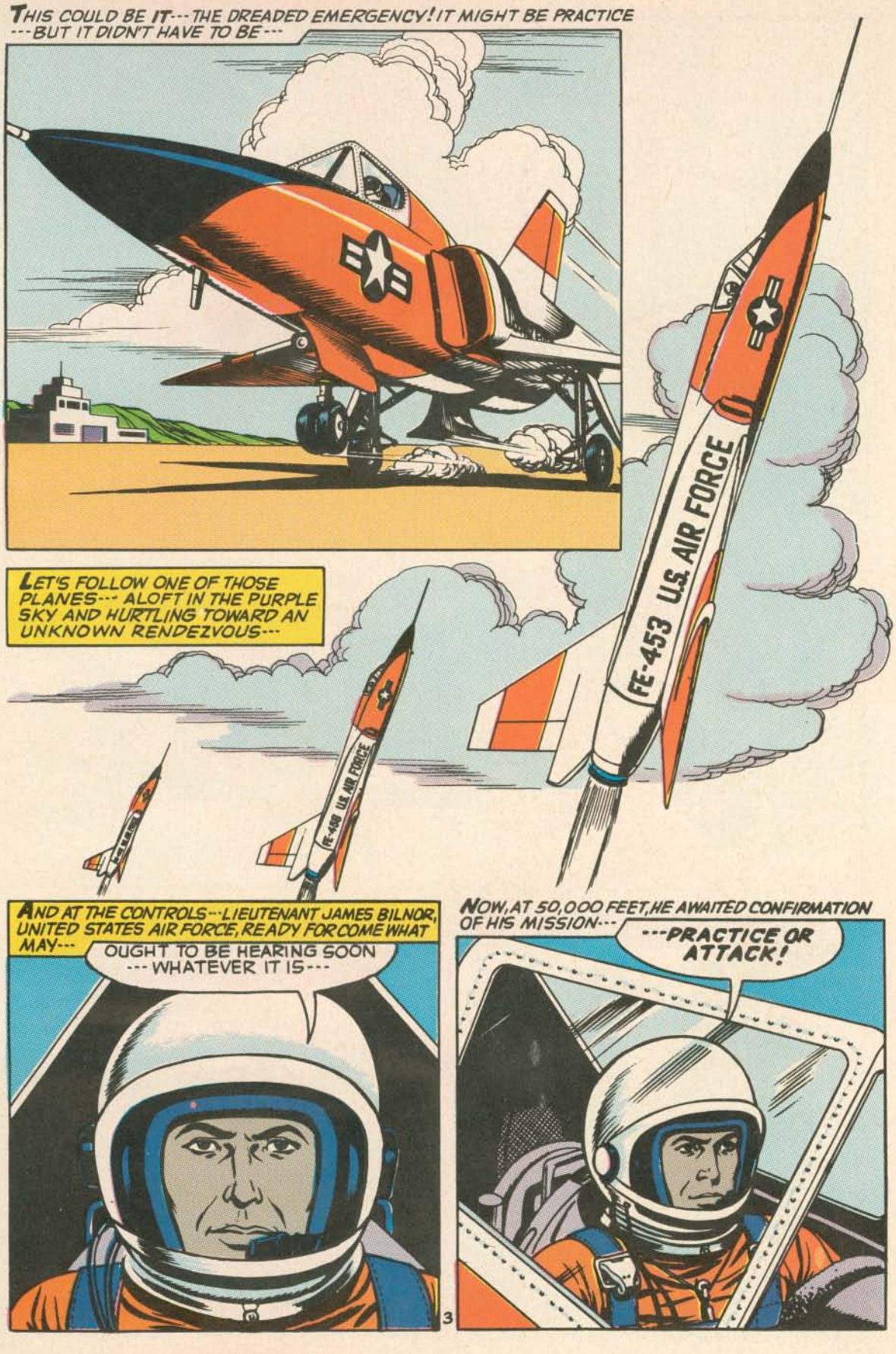
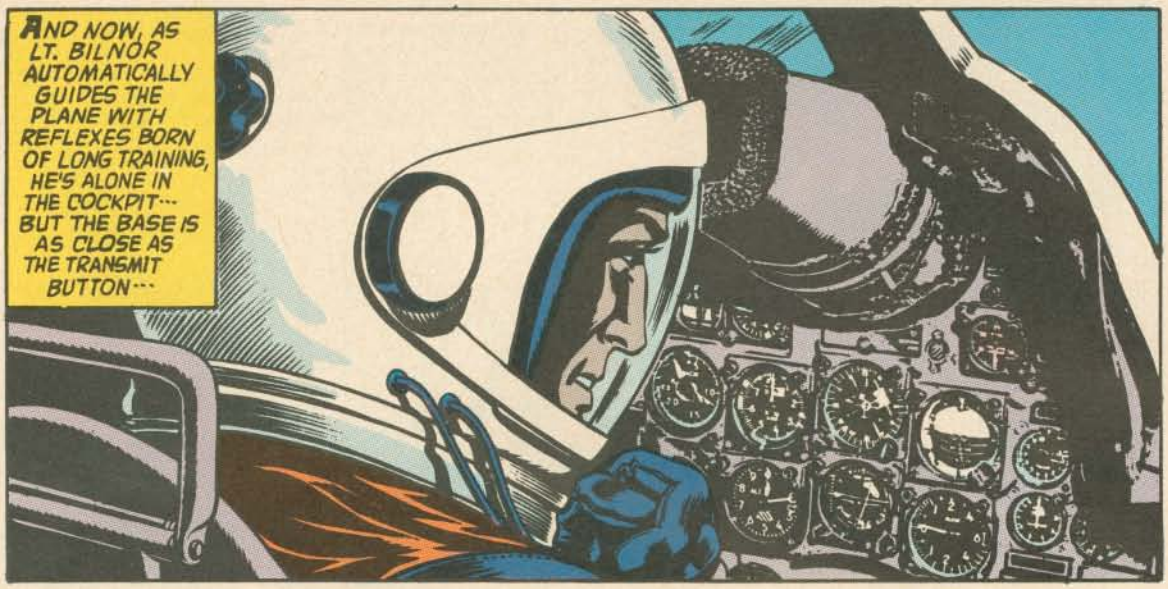
THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE PRESENTS:

The "HIDDEN CREW"

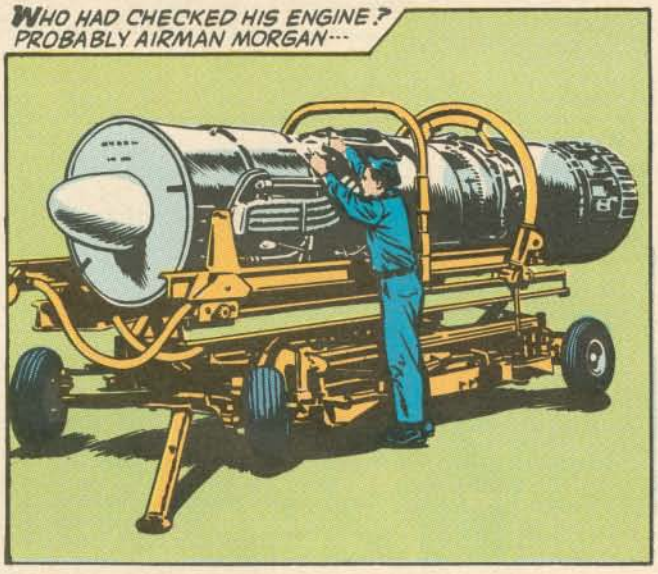


IT COULD HAPPEN ON ANY AIR FORCE BASE---A SCRAMBLE ALARM. ALL PLANES TAKE TO AIR AND AWAIT ORDERS!
LET'S GO, FELLAS!
USAF
466
Schaffenberger
2


THIS COULD BE IT---THE DREADED EMERGENCY! IT MIGHT BE PRACTICE ---BUT IT DIDN'T HAVE TO BE---
LET'S FOLLOW ONE OF THOSE PLANES--- ALOFT IN THE PURPLE SKY AND HURTLING TOWARD AN UNKNOWN RENDEZVOUS---
FE-453 U.S. AIR FORCE
AND AT THE CONTROLS---LIEUTENANT JAMES BILNOR, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, READY FOR COME WHAT MAY---
OUGHT TO BE HEARING SOON ---WHATEVER IT IS---
NOW, AT 50,000 FEET, HE AWAITED CONFIRMATION OF HIS MISSION---
---PRACTICE OR ATTACK!
3


AND NOW, AS LT. BILNOR AUTOMATICALLY GUIDES THE PLANE WITH REFLEXES BORN OF LONG TRAINING, HE'S ALONE IN THE COCKPIT··· BUT THE BASE IS AS CLOSE AS THE TRANSMIT BUTTON···

YES, HE'S ALONE···BUT HE'S NOT REALLY ALONE···
THERE'S A HIDDEN CREW WORKING FOR ME EVERY SECOND!

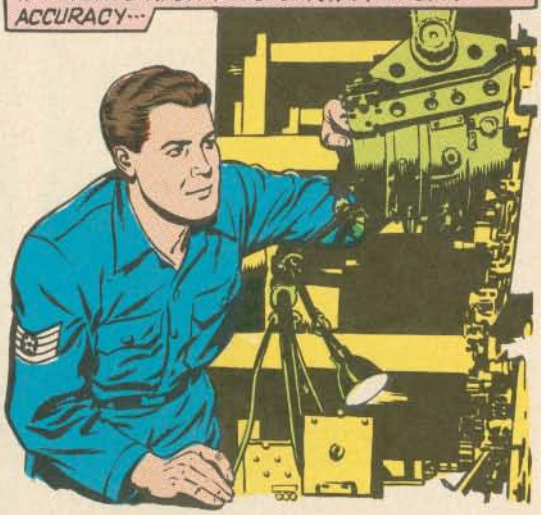

WHO HAD CHECKED HIS ENGINE? PROBABLY AIRMAN MORGAN···

THE MOUNTING OF THE FOUR FALCON MISSILES WITHIN THE FUSELAGE MUST HAVE BEEN SUPERINTENDED BY AIRMAN CODDY···

AND THE SPECIALIST WHO MIGHT HAVE DETECTED THE DANGER THAT HAD SENT BILNOR UP INTO THE SKY···THAT COULD BE WAF JANE TRENNER, THE RADAR SURVEILLANCE TECHNICIAN···
4

BILL EVERETT---HE WAS PART OF THE "HIDDEN CREW", TOO --- THE INTERCEPT DIRECTOR TECHNICIAN---

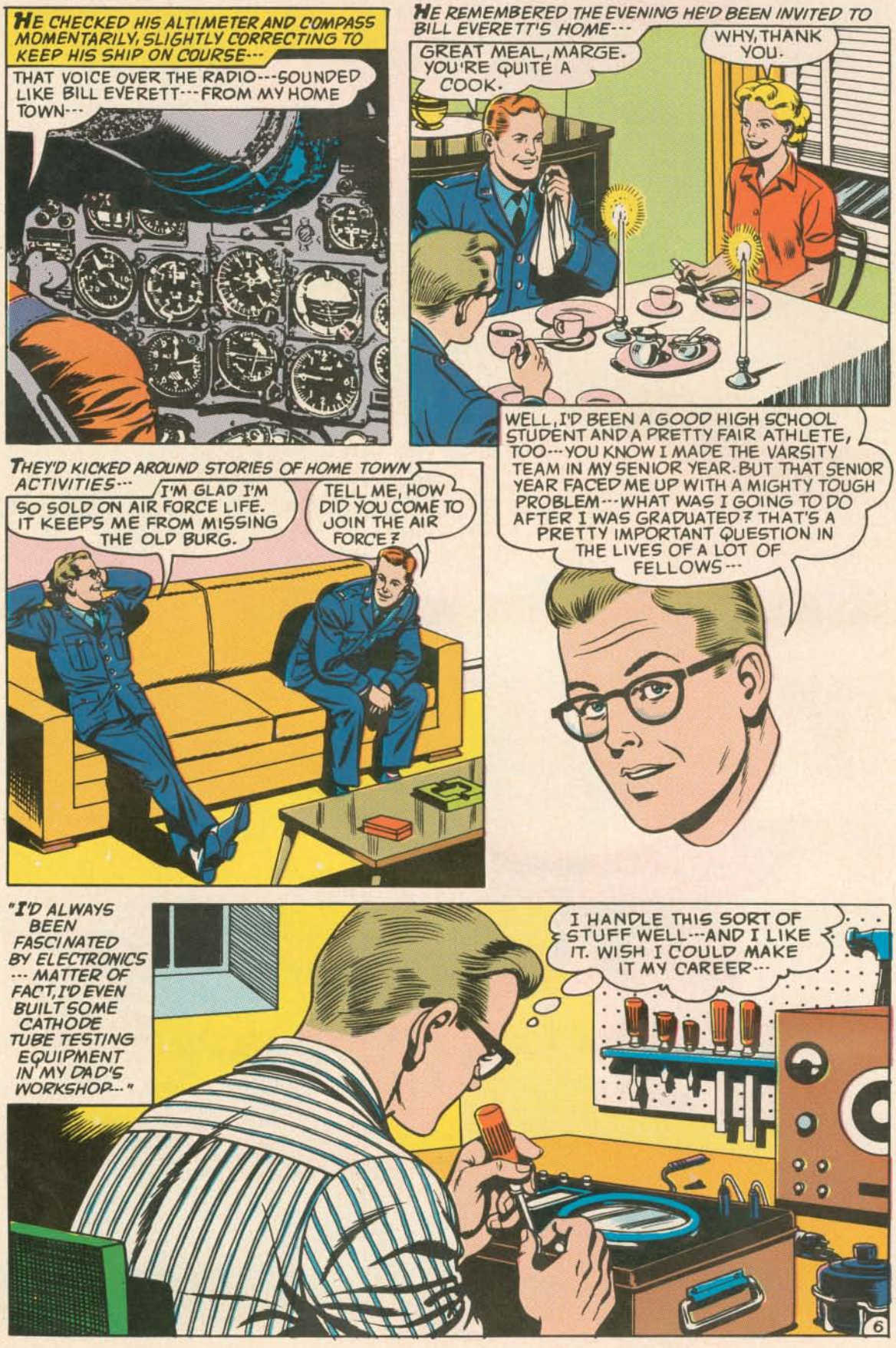
HARRY JENSEN, THE RADAR MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN, WHO HELPED KEEP HIS INTRICATE RADAR SYSTEM AT PIN-POINT ACCURACY---



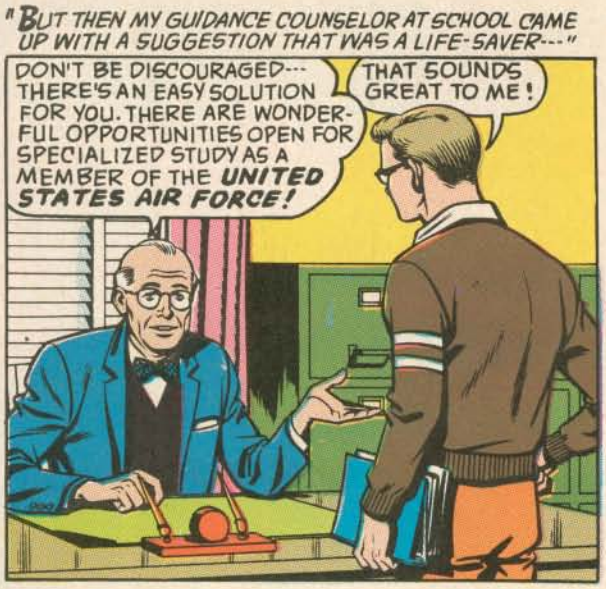
AIRMAN SOAME HAD ASSISTED IN GIVING A BRIEFING OF CURRENT WEATHER CONDITIONS---

ALL THESE PEOPLE --- NOT WITH ME, BUT THEY'RE VITALLY CONCERNED WITH MY MISSION'S SUCCESS. THEY'RE PART OF MY CREW---A " **HIDDEN CREW** ", BUT THEY'RE JUST AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EFFICIENT HANDLING OF MY PLANE AS IF THEY WERE ABOARD!

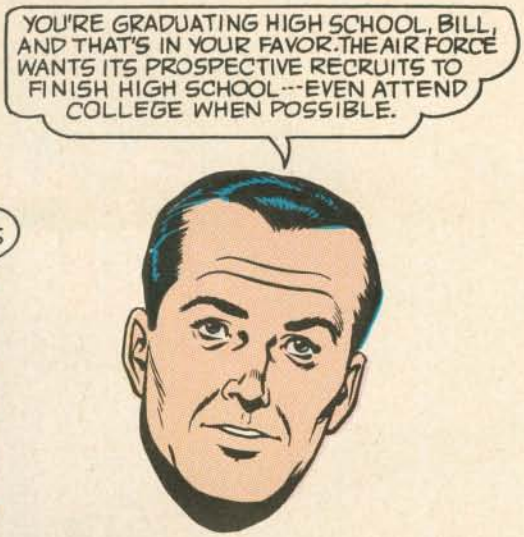
SUDDENLY, HIS MUSINGS WERE INTERRUPTED BY A CRACKLING FROM THE RADIO...


HE CHECKED HIS ALTIMETER AND COMPASS MOMENTARILY, SLIGHTLY CORRECTING TO KEEP HIS SHIP ON COURSE---
THAT VOICE OVER THE RADIO---SOUNDED LIKE BILL EVERETT---FROM MY HOME TOWN---
HE REMEMBERED THE EVENING HE'D BEEN INVITED TO BILL EVERETT'S HOME---
GREAT MEAL, MARGE. YOU'RE QUITE A COOK.
WHY, THANK YOU.
WELL, I'D BEEN A GOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AND A PRETTY FAIR ATHLETE, TOO---YOU KNOW I MADE THE VARSITY TEAM IN MY SENIOR YEAR. BUT THAT SENIOR YEAR FACED ME UP WITH A MIGHTY TOUGH PROBLEM---WHAT WAS I GOING TO DO AFTER I WAS GRADUATED? THAT'S A PRETTY IMPORTANT QUESTION IN THE LIVES OF A LOT OF FELLOWS---
THEY'D KICKED AROUND STORIES OF HOME TOWN ACTIVITIES---
I'M GLAD I'M SO SOLD ON AIR FORCE LIFE. IT KEEPS ME FROM MISSING THE OLD BURG.
TELL ME, HOW DID YOU COME TO JOIN THE AIR FORCE?
"I'D ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED BY ELECTRONICS --- MATTER OF FACT, I'D EVEN BUILT SOME CATHODE TUBE TESTING EQUIPMENT IN MY DAD'S WORKSHOP..."
I HANDLE THIS SORT OF STUFF WELL---AND I LIKE IT. WISH I COULD MAKE IT MY CAREER---
6

COULDN'T YOU HAVE GONE TO TECHNICAL SCHOOL? OR WAS TUITION MONEY THE CATCH?
YOU HIT IT. FOR A WHILE, I THOUGHT OF WORKING MY WAY THROUGH, BUT I FOUND OUT THAT THE STUDYING I'D HAVE TO DO WOULDN'T LEAVE ME ENOUGH TIME TO EARN THE MONEY I NEEDED. IT WAS A PROBLEM THE SIZE OF A STONE WALL!


"BUT THEN MY GUIDANCE COUNSELOR AT SCHOOL CAME UP WITH A SUGGESTION THAT WAS A LIFE-SAVER---"
DON'T BE DISCOURAGED--- THERE'S AN EASY SOLUTION FOR YOU. THERE ARE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES OPEN FOR SPECIALIZED STUDY AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE!
THAT SOUNDS GREAT TO ME!

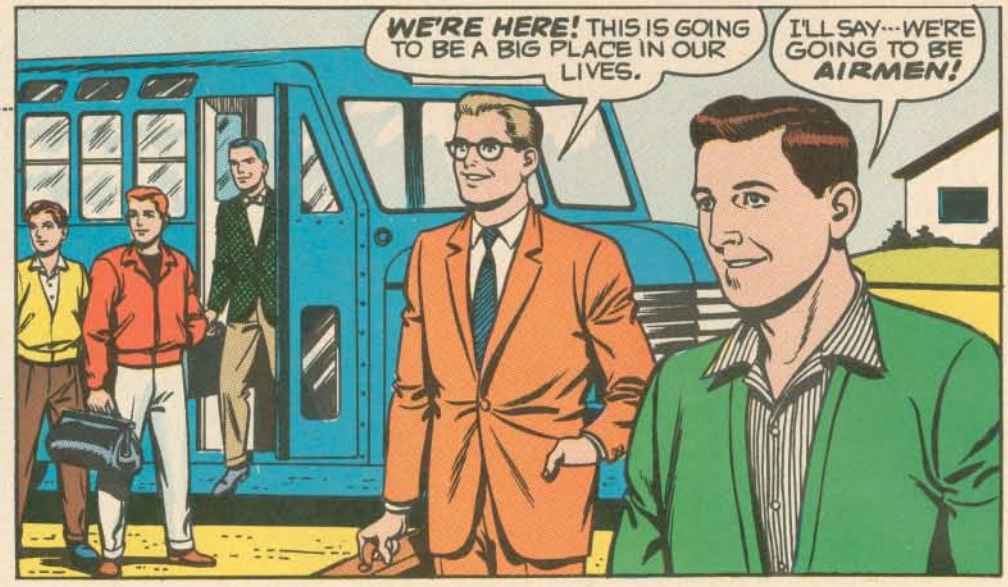
"THE RECRUITING SERGEANT AT THE LOCAL AIR FORCE OFFICE MADE IT SOUND EVEN BETTER---"
I ONLY WISH THERE WAS SOME WAY OF FINDING OUT IN ADVANCE WHETHER THE AIR FORCE THOUGHT I HAD A CHANCE IN ELECTRONICS---
BUT THERE IS! THE AIRMAN QUALIFYING EXAMINATION---YOU TAKE IT BEFORE YOU ENLIST. IT MEASURES YOUR APTITUDES AND IT WILL INDICATE WHETHER OR NOT YOU COULD ENTER INTO ELECTRONICS TRAINING!

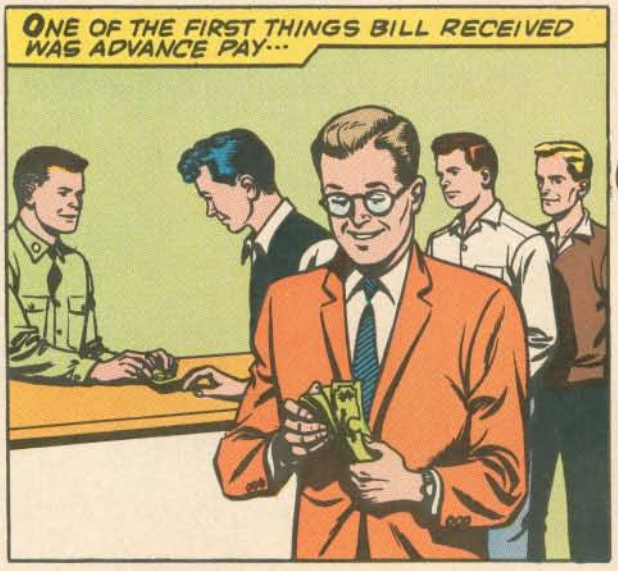

YOU'RE GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL, BILL, AND THAT'S IN YOUR FAVOR. THE AIR FORCE WANTS ITS PROSPECTIVE RECRUITS TO FINISH HIGH SCHOOL---EVEN ATTEND COLLEGE WHEN POSSIBLE.

PASS ON THE WORD TO YOUR FRIENDS. TELL 'EM TO PREPARE FOR THE AIR FORCE WHILE THEY'RE STILL IN SCHOOL BY TAKING SUBJECTS THAT WILL FIT IN WITH THE AIR FORCE SPECIALTY THEY'RE INTERESTED IN--- AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SCHOOL'S HEALTH AND PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAMS.
R

"I'LL NEVER FORGET WHEN I CAME OUT OF MY AIRMAN QUALIFYING EXAMINATION---THERE WAS MARGE, WAITING FOR ME ANXIOUSLY---"
HOW---HOW DO YOU THINK YOU MADE OUT, BILL?
SWELL---I'M SURE OF IT!
7

YES, BILL DID WELL ON HIS EXAMINATION. HE ENLISTED··· AND SOON, WITH OTHER HAPPY AND EXCITED RECRUITS, HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE IN TEXAS. THE GREAT ADVENTURE LAY BEFORE THEM···





NOW BILL EVERETT RECEIVED FURTHER APTITUDE TESTS---AS WELL AS INTERVIEWS WITH THE AIR FORCE GUIDANCE STAFF---
I SORT OF THOUGHT THAT THE AIRMAN QUALIFYING EXAM SHOWED MY APTITUDES.
IT HELPED---BUT WE LIKE TO PINPOINT THEM AND FURTHER ESTABLISH YOUR CAPABILITIES AND PREFERENCES. THAT'S IMPORTANT---ALL MEN HERE ARE HEADED TOWARDS ONE OF MORE THAN 40 CAREER FIELDS AS SKILLED AND CONFIDENT SPECIALISTS DOING IMPORTANT JOBS.

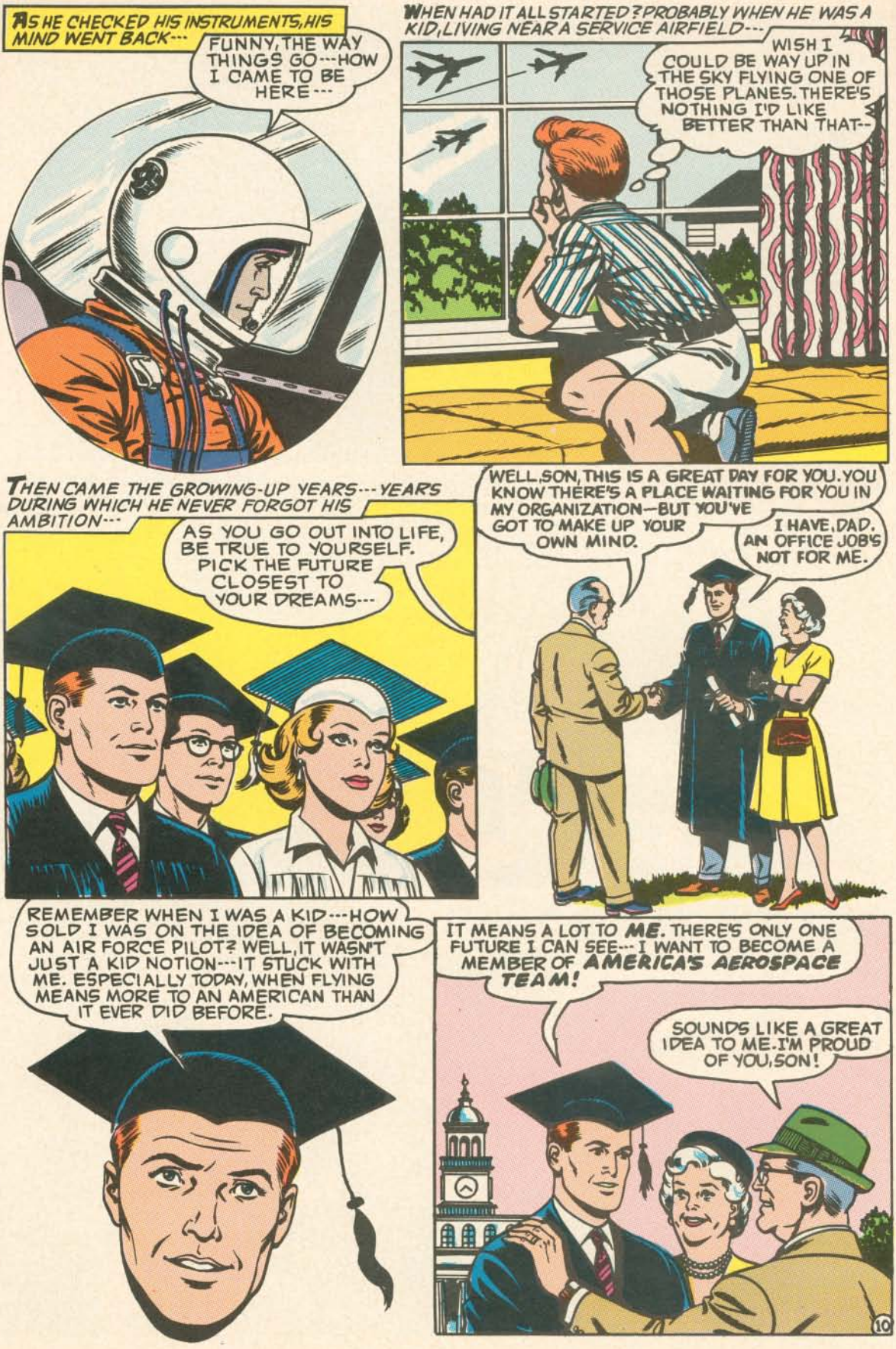
ONCE AGAIN, IT TURNED OUT TO BE ELECTRONICS---AND NOW BOTH BILL AND THE AIR FORCE WERE SURE. NOW HE KNEW WHERE HE WAS GOING---THE CAREER ON WHICH HE WAS LAUNCHED. AT HIS ADVANCED TRAINING TECH SCHOOL---
MY OLD TEACHERS SHOULD SEE ME NOW. I CAN'T WAIT FOR TODAY'S LESSON!

THIS WAS INSTRUCTION ON A PAR WITH THE BEST TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY---
IT ISN'T ENOUGH TO KNOW HOW TO USE MODERN RECEIVERS. YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF RADIO WAVES---

IN MANY AREAS OF ADVANCED RESEARCH, THE AIR FORCE TRAINING SURPASSED CIVILIAN COURSES---
NO PRIVATE SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY HAS EQUIPMENT LIKE THIS---OR TEACHES ITS USE AS WELL.

WHEN HIS TRAINING WAS OVER, BILL RECEIVED HIS ASSIGNMENT. IT WAS DOING THE JOB HE LIKED BEST IN THE WORLD, OPERATING ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT---
I NEVER DREAMED I COULD BE SO HAPPY WORKING. I SURE PICKED RIGHT WHEN I SIGNED UP WITH THE AIR FORCE!

AND NOW HE'S HELPING TO KEEP MY PLANE ON COURSE. HE'S A MEMBER OF MY "HIDDEN CREW"! ALL RIGHT---A VALUABLE ONE---


AS HE CHECKED HIS INSTRUMENTS, HIS MIND WENT BACK---
FUNNY, THE WAY THINGS GO---HOW I CAME TO BE HERE---
WHEN HAD IT ALL STARTED? PROBABLY WHEN HE WAS A KID, LIVING NEAR A SERVICE AIRFIELD---
WISH I COULD BE WAY UP IN THE SKY FLYING ONE OF THOSE PLANES. THERE'S NOTHING I'D LIKE BETTER THAN THAT--
THEN CAME THE GROWING-UP YEARS--- YEARS DURING WHICH HE NEVER FORGOT HIS AMBITION---
AS YOU GO OUT INTO LIFE, BE TRUE TO YOURSELF. PICK THE FUTURE CLOSEST TO YOUR DREAMS---
WELL, SON, THIS IS A GREAT DAY FOR YOU. YOU KNOW THERE'S A PLACE WAITING FOR YOU IN MY ORGANIZATION—BUT YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE UP YOUR OWN MIND.
I HAVE, DAD. AN OFFICE JOB'S NOT FOR ME.
REMEMBER WHEN I WAS A KID---HOW SOLD I WAS ON THE IDEA OF BECOMING AN AIR FORCE PILOT? WELL, IT WASN'T JUST A KID NOTION---IT STUCK WITH ME. ESPECIALLY TODAY, WHEN FLYING MEANS MORE TO AN AMERICAN THAN IT EVER DID BEFORE.
IT MEANS A LOT TO ME. THERE'S ONLY ONE FUTURE I CAN SEE--- I WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF AMERICA'S AEROSPACE TEAM!
SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA TO ME. I'M PROUD OF YOU, SON!
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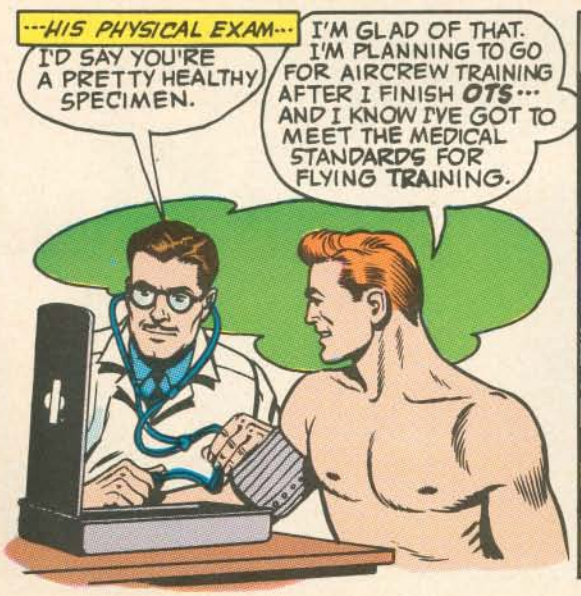
AND SO YOUNG JAMES BILNOR CONTACTED THE NEAREST AIR FORCE RECRUITING DETACHMENT---
WELL---HERE GOES!
U.S. AIR FOR
CRUITING DETACHMENT

I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW I FELT AT THAT MOMENT. I HAD PLENTY OF REASON, TOO ---IT WAS THE TURNING-POINT OF MY LIFE!

AS A COLLEGE GRADUATE, YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR A LIEUTENANT'S COMMISSION---IF YOU'RE ACCEPTED BY THE OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL, WHICH THE USAF MAINTAINS, AND COMPLETE ITS COURSE.
AND YOU SAY THAT FIRST I'LL BE TESTED AT THE NEAREST AIR FORCE ACADEMY AND AIRCREW EXAMINING CENTER---AND IF I PASS THE TEST, I'LL BE RECOMMENDED FOR TRAINING? WELL---I'LL BE WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU!

JAMES BILNOR RECEIVED NOTIFICATION FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE---TOOK HIS MENTAL TESTS---

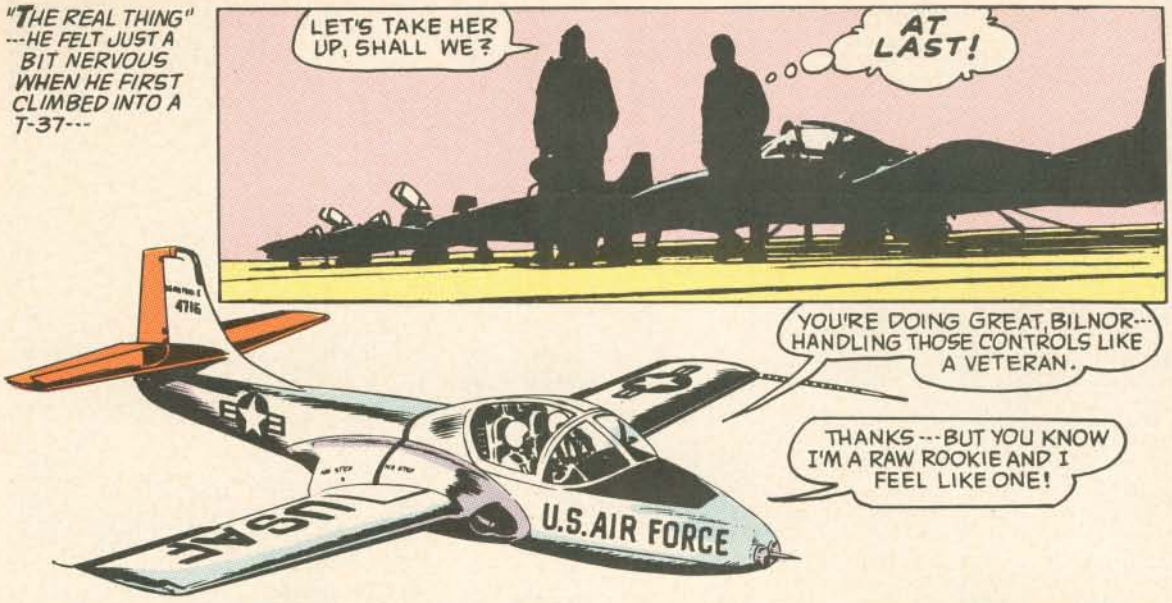

---HIS PHYSICAL EXAM---
I'D SAY YOU'RE A PRETTY HEALTHY SPECIMEN.
I'M GLAD OF THAT. I'M PLANNING TO GO FOR AIRCREW TRAINING AFTER I FINISH OTS--- AND I KNOW I'VE GOT TO MEET THE MEDICAL STANDARDS FOR FLYING TRAINING.

GOOD NEWS, JIM?
SURE IS---I'M ACCEPTED FOR OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL! WOW!
CONGRATULATIONS!
CORN FLAKES

AND SO JAMES BILNOR ARRIVED AT THE HUGE LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE IN TEXAS---
SO THIS IS WHERE THEY MAKE AIRMEN. WHAT A PLACE!
GATEWAY TO
LACKLAND
The AIR FORCE
1001
TRAINING IS HARD, BUT INTERESTING AND A CHALLENGE---
12

THEN CAME THE CLASSROOM WORK OF OTS---OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL. YOU HAD TO GET WITH IT---
THERE'S SO MUCH TO LEARN--- BUT IT'S FASCINATING.
CHEER UP---YOU CAN MAKE IT IF YOU WORK AT IT. IT MAY BE HARD, BUT REMEMBER---WHEN ANYTHING IS AS WORTHWHILE AS BEING AN OFFICER IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE, IT'S WORTH WORKING HARD FOR!
THIS OTS SURE IS TOUGH---I HOPE I CAN MAKE IT.
HE'S RIGHT. ALL OF US FEEL LOW EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE---FORGET IT.
THANKS. BOTH YOU FELLAS HAVE MADE ME FEEL A LOT BETTER ALREADY.
LOOK AT ME, GRADUATING FROM OTS. I MADE IT!
WE MADE IT. AND I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT IT'S A BIG ADVENTURE THAT'S JUST BEGINNING!
NOW, WITH OTS BEHIND HIM, CAME THE NEXT STEP IN JAMES BILNOR'S GREAT ADVENTURE---THE USAF PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM---
WE'LL GET OFF TO A START WITH ALTITUDE TESTS.
HERE I GO---THE FIRST REAL STEP IN MY BECOMING A U.S. AIR FORCE PILOT!
THEN---BASIC FLYING MANEUVERS---
AT THIS EARLY POINT, I'LL DEMONSTRATE BASIC MANEUVERS USING A MODEL OF OUR T-37 PRIMARY JET TRAINER. PRETTY SOON, YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO WORK THEM OUT USING THE REAL THING.
USAF
LT.
13

"THE REAL THING" ---HE FELT JUST A BIT NERVOUS WHEN HE FIRST CLIMBED INTO A T-37---


LET'S TAKE HER UP, SHALL WE?
AT LAST!
YOU'RE DOING GREAT, BILNOR--- HANDLING THOSE CONTROLS LIKE A VETERAN.
THANKS --- BUT YOU KNOW I'M A RAW ROOKIE AND I FEEL LIKE ONE!
U.S.AIR FORCE

BUT TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE CAN SMOOTH AND POLISH THE ROUGHEST CORNERS. BILNOR'S NEXT STEP TOWARDS BECOMING A PILOT WAS A USAF T-38 TALON ADVANCED JET TRAINER--- THE SUPERSONIC TRAINER THAT STUDENT PILOTS GRADUATE TO AFTER THE T-37---

THE T-38 CAN HANDLE LIKE A DREAM --- BUT YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO FLY BY THE BOOK, AND THAT MEANS KNOW THE BOOK. DON'T EVER FORGET THE TIPS I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU---
U.S. AIR FORCE

FINALLY, IT CAME---THE THRILLING, WONDERFUL DAY WHEN LT. JAMES BILNOR TOOK OFF FROM THE RUNWAY ON HIS FIRST SUPERSONIC FLIGHT---**ALONE!**

CONGRATULATIONS, LIEUTENANT. I WAS WATCHING EVERY INCH OF YOUR FLIGHT. YOU NEVER FALTERED--- YOU FLEW LIKE AN OLD HAND.
THANK YOU, SIR. I DON'T MIND ADMITTING I HAD MY BUTTERFLIES.

THE AIR FORCE FLYING TRAINING PROGRAM BUILDS PILOTS... GOOD AND ABLE PILOTS DESTINED TO PLAY VALUABLE PARTS IN AMERICA'S INSPIRING AEROSPACE PROGRAM. TAKE A LOOK AT THE FLYING GREATS OF TOMORROW ---AND BE PROUD YOU'RE AN AMERICAN!
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U.S. AIR FORCE
USAF

IT'S A GREAT FEELING··· THE DAY YOU GET YOUR PILOT'S WINGS···

HOW IT ALL COMES BACK TO ME ··· THE FRIENDS I MADE, EVERYTHING. THERE WAS BEN ··· HE WENT ON TO THE NAVIGATOR PROGRAM AFTER OTS ··· AND MAN, HOW HE LOVED IT···

EVERY MAN HAS HIS DREAM··· AERIAL NAVIGATION HAD BEEN BEN'S. FROM THE BEGINNING, HE FOUND IT FASCINATING, INSPIRING···
YOU GOT A FULL BRIEFING FOR A FLYING TRAINING MISSION··· NOW LET'S SEE YOUR PRE-FLIGHT COMPUTATIONS. HMMMM··· EXCELLENT···

NAVIGATION'S AN EXACT SCIENCE··· AND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TEACHES IT WELL! EVERY DAY FOUND HIM LEARNING MORE, LEARNING THOROUGHLY··· APPROACHING THE GREAT GOAL HE'D SET FOR HIMSELF···

AND FINALLY, WITH CLASSROOM TRAINING COMPLETED, PRACTICAL ON-THE-JOB INSTRUCTION TOOK OVER··· IN THE AIR!
YOU'VE CHARTED OUR POSITION PERFECTLY, BEN. I'D SAY YOU'RE A BORN NAVIGATOR!

YES, BEN TOO HAD WON HIS WINGS---AS A NAVIGATOR. NOW LT. BILNOR REMEMBERED TED, WHO HAD FOUND ANOTHER VALUABLE WAY TO SERVE AMERICA. HE'D MADE A GREAT SUCCESS AS AN AIR FORCE OFFICER IN ADMINISTRATION WORK, THE FIELD OF HIS GREATEST APTITUDE. IT TOOK CAREFUL TRAINING, BUT THE **USAF** IS GEARED FOR THAT---

YOU MIGHT CALL AIR FORCE ADMINISTRATION A SCIENCE IN ITS OWN RIGHT---AND YOU MEN ARE HERE TO LEARN IT FROM A TO Z!

TODAY, TED'S DOING A FINE JOB---

THE AIR FORCE IS A BIG ORGANIZATION AND GOOD ADMINISTRATION HELPS TO KEEP IT RUNNING. **HE'S THE BEST!**

OTS---OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL---IS FULFILLING A VALUABLE FUNCTION IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE. BUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS IN WHICH COMMISSIONS CAN BE WON BY MEN AND WOMEN IN CIVILIAN LIFE. PROUDEST OF ALL IS THE **AIR FORCE ACADEMY**, LOCATED ON A 17,880-ACRE SITE NEAR COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.---

MY GRANDSON'S A STUDENT THERE---IT'S A REAL HONOR. EVERY YEAR, YOUNG MEN FROM THE 50 STATES ARE NOMINATED BY THEIR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES AND APPOINTED TO THE ACADEMY.

MY BROTHER'S THERE TOO.

HE SAYS IT'S RANKED AMONG OUR NATION'S FINEST INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. THE STUDENTS RECEIVE A 4-YEAR COLLEGE EDUCATION PLUS MILITARY TRAINING AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION---AND ARE GRADUATED WITH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE AND A COMMISSION AS SECOND LIETENANT IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE.

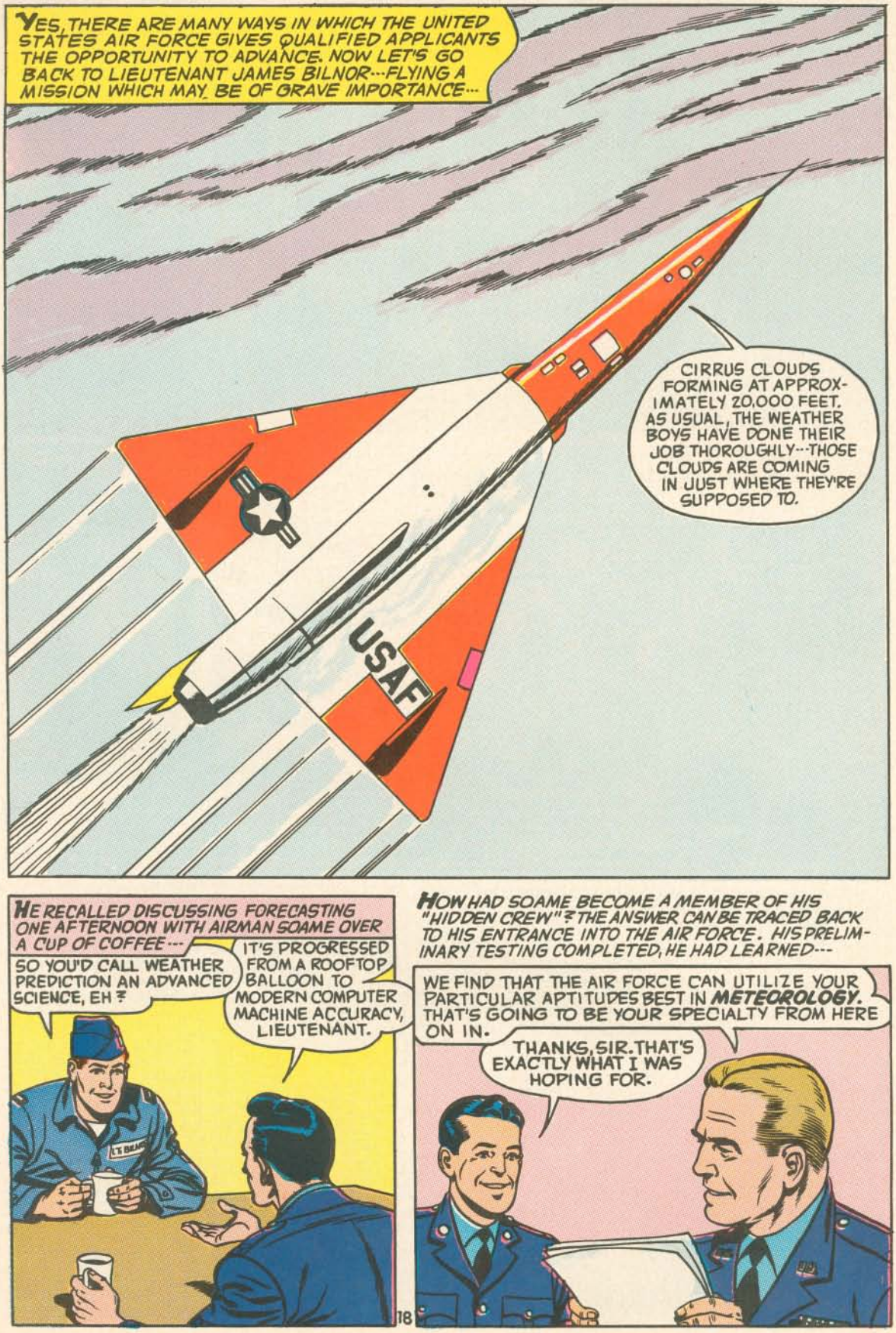
THEN THERE'S THE **AIR FORCE RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS**. OVER 170 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ASSIST IN TRAINING STUDENTS FOR THE AIR FORCE SERVICE---

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE 4-YEAR AIR FORCE **ROTC** COURSE GIVES CREDITS TOWARDS GRADUATION---AND WHEN THE STUDENT COMPLETES IT, HE'S APPOINTED A LIEUTENANT.

THAT'S RIGHT, AND IT'S A GREAT PROGRAM. MORE THAN 50% OF AIR FORCE **ROTC** GRADS ENTER FLYING TRAINING AS PILOTS OR NAVIGATORS, WHILE OTHERS FILL TECHNICAL AND NON-TECHNICAL AIR FORCE JOBS. IF YOU'RE ENROLLING HERE NEXT SEMESTER, IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

THERE'S ALSO AN EXCELLENT METHOD WHEREBY ENLISTED PERSONNEL PRESENTLY ON ACTIVE DUTY CAN WIN COMMISSIONS. THIS IS THE **AIRMAN EDUCATION AND COMMISSIONING PROGRAM** AND HERE ARE ITS PRINCIPAL POINTS---

AIRMEN ON ACTIVE DUTY MAY APPLY FOR ENROLLMENT UNDER THIS PROGRAM. IF QUALIFIED AND SELECTED, THEY ARE ASSIGNED TO CIVILIAN COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES IN THE GRADE OF STAFF SERGEANT. WHEN THEY RECEIVE THEIR DEGREES, THEY'RE COMMISSIONED AS SECOND LIEUTENANTS IN THE **USAF** RESERVE.


YES, THERE ARE MANY WAYS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE GIVES QUALIFIED APPLICANTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE. NOW LET'S GO BACK TO LIEUTENANT JAMES BILNOR---FLYING A MISSION WHICH MAY BE OF GRAVE IMPORTANCE...
CIRRUS CLOUDS FORMING AT APPROXIMATELY 20,000 FEET. AS USUAL, THE WEATHER BOYS HAVE DONE THEIR JOB THOROUGHLY---THOSE CLOUDS ARE COMING IN JUST WHERE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO.
USAF
HE RECALLED DISCUSSING FORECASTING ONE AFTERNOON WITH AIRMAN SOAME OVER A CUP OF COFFEE---
SO YOU'D CALL WEATHER PREDICTION AN ADVANCED SCIENCE, EH?
IT'S PROGRESSED FROM A ROOFTOP BALLOON TO MODERN COMPUTER MACHINE ACCURACY, LIEUTENANT.
HOW HAD SOAME BECOME A MEMBER OF HIS "HIDDEN CREW"? THE ANSWER CAN BE TRACED BACK TO HIS ENTRANCE INTO THE AIR FORCE. HIS PRELIMINARY TESTING COMPLETED, HE HAD LEARNED---
WE FIND THAT THE AIR FORCE CAN UTILIZE YOUR PARTICULAR APTITUDES BEST IN METEOROLOGY. THAT'S GOING TO BE YOUR SPECIALTY FROM HERE ON IN.
THANKS, SIR. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR.

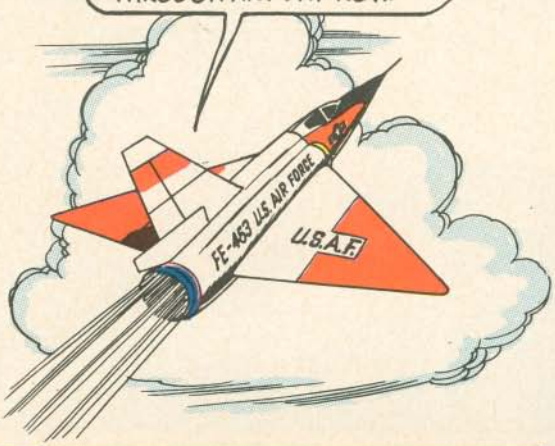
LECTURES, LAB WORK---THEY HELPED SOAME LEARN HIS SPECIALTY WELL---

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE MAKE SUCH FAST PROGRESS AS YOU HAVE. YOU'RE GOING TO GET THERE, AND FAST!

HIS INSTRUCTOR WAS RIGHT---AND THE AIR FORCE WAS RIGHT. NOT ONLY DID SOAME DO A GOOD JOB AS A METEOROLOGIST, BUT HE REALLY ENJOYED IT---

I NEVER KNEW THE DAYS COULD FLY PAST THIS WAY.

HE'S A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW ENLISTED PERSONNEL IN THE AIR FORCE CAN FORGE AHEAD. HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE **AIRMAN EDUCATION AND COMMISSIONING PROGRAM** SHOULD BE COMING THROUGH ANY DAY NOW.



LIEUTENANT BILNOR WOULD BE SORRY TO LOSE THIS ABLE "HIDDEN CREW" MEMBER WHOSE WEATHER INFORMATION HAD BEEN SO HELPFUL, BUT HE KNEW THE AIR FORCE WOULD PROVIDE AN EQUALLY CAPABLE REPLACEMENT. HE HAD BEEN HAPPY TO ENDORSE SOAME'S APPLICATION---

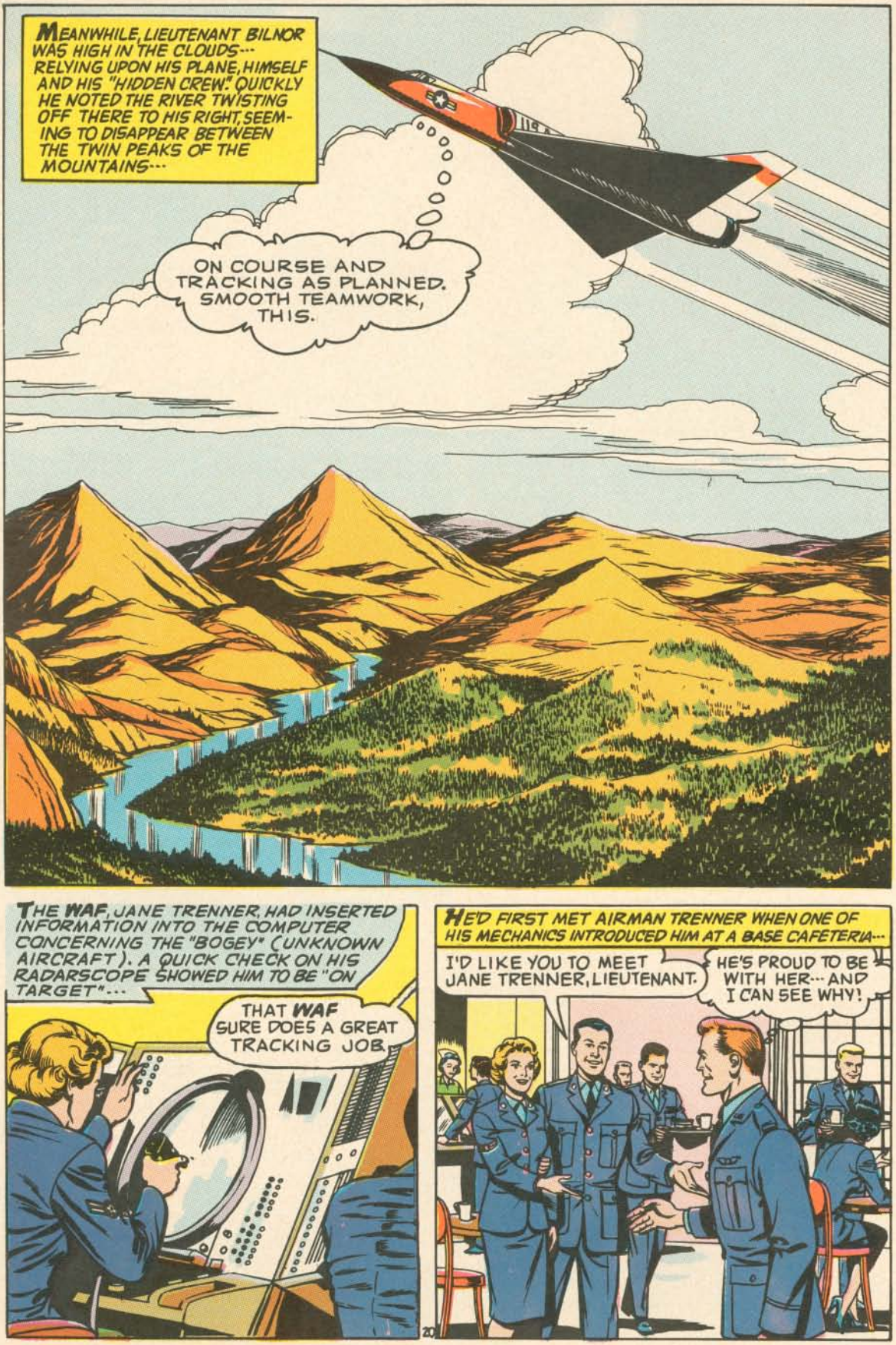
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, SIR.

THERE'S NO NEED TO THANK ME---YOU DESERVE IT. YOU'RE GOOD MATERIAL FOR COMMISSIONING.

AIRMAN SOAME HAD SOME COLLEGE CREDITS ALREADY. HE CAN EXPECT, UNDER THIS PROGRAM, TO BE ASSIGNED TO A CIVILIAN COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN THE GRADE OF STAFF SERGEANT. HE'LL STUDY THERE---

WHEN I RECEIVE MY DEGREE HERE, I'LL GO ON TO **OTS**, AFTER WHICH I'LL BE COMMISSIONED A SECOND LIEUTENANT IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVE.

WHAT A GREAT WAY TO WIN A COMMISSION. THE AIR FORCE SURE DOESN'T HOLD ITS MEN BACK!


MEANWHILE, LIEUTENANT BILNOR WAS HIGH IN THE CLOUDS··· RELYING UPON HIS PLANE, HIMSELF AND HIS "HIDDEN CREW." QUICKLY HE NOTED THE RIVER TWISTING OFF THERE TO HIS RIGHT, SEEMING TO DISAPPEAR BETWEEN THE TWIN PEAKS OF THE MOUNTAINS···
ON COURSE AND TRACKING AS PLANNED. SMOOTH TEAMWORK, THIS.
THE WAF, JANE TRENNER, HAD INSERTED INFORMATION INTO THE COMPUTER CONCERNING THE "BOGEY" (UNKNOWN AIRCRAFT). A QUICK CHECK ON HIS RADARSCOPE SHOWED HIM TO BE "ON TARGET"···
THAT WAF SURE DOES A GREAT TRACKING JOB.
HE'D FIRST MET AIRMAN TRENNER WHEN ONE OF HIS MECHANICS INTRODUCED HIM AT A BASE CAFETERIA···
I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET JANE TRENNER, LIEUTENANT.
HE'S PROUD TO BE WITH HER··· AND I CAN SEE WHY!

SHE WAS AS INTELLIGENT AS SHE WAS ATTRACTIVE---

I KNEW YOU WERE BRIGHT ---AFTER ALL, YOU **DID** JOIN THE AIR FORCE! MIND TELLING ME HOW YOU CAME TO BE ONE OF US?

NOT AT ALL. AFTER I'D FINISHED SCHOOL, I WASN'T SURE OF EXACTLY WHERE I WAS GOING---

---SO I TOOK A CLERICAL JOB WITH A LARGE FIRM. AT FIRST, IT DIDN'T SEEM TOO BAD--- THE PEOPLE I WORKED WITH WERE NICE ENOUGH AND THE SALARY WAS FAIR---

BUT THEN ONE DRAWBACK BECAME EVIDENT--- **MONOTONY.** AND JANE TRENNER WASN'T THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO COULD GET INTO A RUT WITHOUT YEARNING FOR A CHANGE---

THE SAME THING, DAY AFTER DAY. IF I DON'T GET OUT OF HERE AND INTO SOMETHING **INTERESTING**, I'LL BUST!

AND THEN IT CAME TO HER--- LIKE A BOLT OUT OF THE WILD BLUE YONDER---

THE AIR FORCE ---A **WAF**---THAT JUST MIGHT BE **IT!**

A World of Opportunity
WAF
WOMEN IN THE AIR FORCE

BUT SHE WAS CAREFUL ENOUGH TO WANT THE COMPLETE SCORE. SHE STARTED BY QUESTIONING A **WAF**---

JOINING THE **WAF** WAS THE BEST THING I EVER DID. I'M PART OF A GREAT TEAM WORKING FOR MY COUNTRY---DOING WORK THAT'S CHALLENGING AND INSPIRING. AND I'M GETTING PLACES, HAVING FUN!

PARENTS CAN BE COUNTED ON TO HAVE THEIR DAUGHTER'S INTERESTS AT HEART--- LET'S HEAR WHAT **THEY** SAID. JANE INVITED AN AIR FORCE RECRUITER TO HER HOME TO SIT IN ON AN INFORMAL, FRIENDLY CONFERENCE. WHEN MOM AND DAD HAD LEARNED WHAT THE AIR FORCE HAD TO OFFER---

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ALWAYS SEEKS TO DETERMINE THE EXACT WORK FOR WHICH ITS MEN AND WOMEN ARE BEST FITTED. PRIOR TO ENLISTMENT, JANE RECEIVED THE RESULTS OF HER AIR FORCE QUALIFYING EXAM---

THE TESTS YOU'VE TAKEN INDICATE VERY CLEARLY THAT YOU MIGHT FIT INTO A HIGHLY TECHNICAL CAREER FIELD. YOU SHOW EXCELLENT APTITUDE IN THAT DIRECTION.
THAT SOUNDS WONDERFUL. I'D **LOVE** IT!

THE GIRLS IN HER OFFICE GAVE HER A GOING-AWAY PARTY. AT FIRST, NOT ALL OF THEM AGREED WITH HER CHOICE OF THIS NEW CAREER---

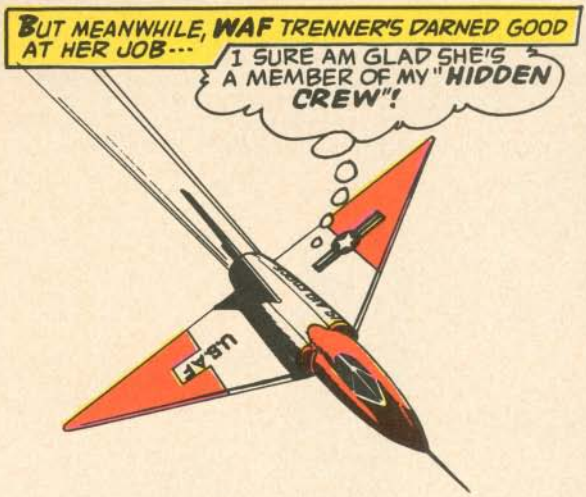
I'LL BET ANYTHING YOU WON'T LIKE IT, JANE.
SURE---YOU'LL WISH YOU WERE BACK IN THE OFFICE WITH US.
I'M NOT WORRIED ONE LEAST LITTLE BIT. I KNOW I'VE MADE THE RIGHT DECISION.

YES, IT WAS THE GREATEST DECISION SHE EVER MADE. **WAF** TRENNER'S PERFORMANCE IN THE AIR FORCE HAS PROVED THAT---

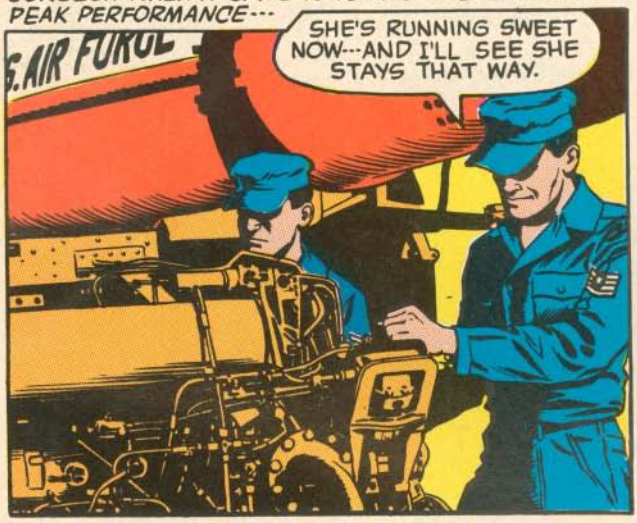
AND BACK AT HER FORMER OFFICE---

"YOU SHOULD SEE YOUR JANE NOW. I'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER IN MY LIFE. THE WORK IS FASCINATING, I'M CRAZY ABOUT AIR FORCE PEOPLE, I HAVE PLENTY OF DATES---"
AND WE SAID SHE WOULDN'T LIKE IT--- THAT SHE'D WISH SHE WERE BACK HERE WITH US. WERE WE EVER **WRONG!**
QUICK--- **WHERE'S THE NEAREST AIR FORCE RECRUITING OFFICE?**

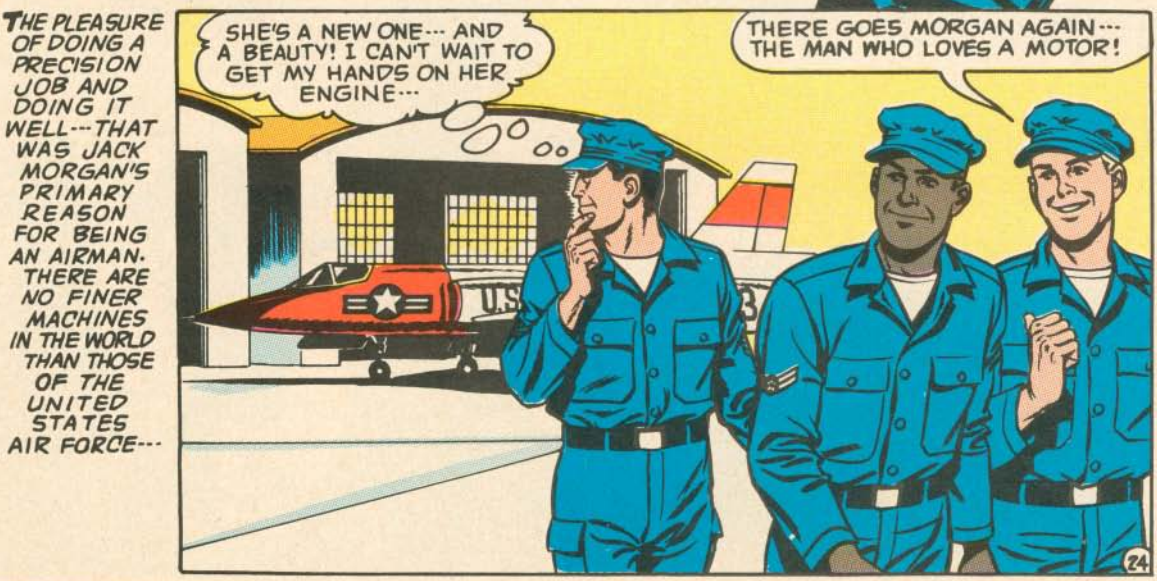
IT'S GREAT TO BE A WAF IN OUR WORLD-WIDE AIR FORCE. FOR ONE THING, IT MEANS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GLORIOUS TRAVEL. IT MAY BE AN ASSIGNMENT TO AN AIR FORCE BASE HALFWAY ACROSS THE WORLD. IT MAY BE A TRIP YOU TAKE ON YOUR 30 DAYS' ANNUAL LEAVE. WHEREVER YOU GO, YOU'LL GO IN THOSE BEAUTIFULLY-TAILORED WAF UNIFORMS, DOING ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS THAT ARE OPEN TO WAFS. WHEREVER YOU GO, YOU'LL FIND THE FRIENDLY AIR FORCE WAY OF LIFE---COMFORTABLE LIVING QUARTERS, CLUBS, SWIMMING POOLS AND ALL THE LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES. EUROPE, ENGLAND, CALIFORNIA, HAWAII, THE FAR EAST, FLORIDA--- THESE CAN BE YOURS AS A WAF!


BUT MEANWHILE, WAF TRENNER'S DARNED GOOD AT HER JOB---
I SURE AM GLAD SHE'S A MEMBER OF MY "HIDDEN CREW"!
USAF

A ROUTINE CHECK OF HIS INSTRUMENTS SHOWED ALL SYSTEMS NORMAL---
GREAT TO BE ABLE TO TRUST MY PLANE TO THE LIMIT. THAT'S BECAUSE ANOTHER MEMBER OF MY "HIDDEN CREW" IS ON THE JOB ---AIRMAN JACK MORGAN!


MORGAN---THE MAN WITH THE FINGERS OF A SURGEON WHEN IT CAME TO TUNING AN ENGINE FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE---
SHE'S RUNNING SWEET NOW---AND I'LL SEE SHE STAYS THAT WAY.

FOR A MAN WITH A MECHANICAL MIND, THERE CAN BE FEW PLEASURES GREATER THAN WORKING WITH A FINE PIECE OF MACHINERY---
SOMETHING ABOUT A GOOD REPAIR JOB THAT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD!


THE PLEASURE OF DOING A PRECISION JOB AND DOING IT WELL---THAT WAS JACK MORGAN'S PRIMARY REASON FOR BEING AN AIRMAN. THERE ARE NO FINER MACHINES IN THE WORLD THAN THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE---
SHE'S A NEW ONE--- AND A BEAUTY! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON HER ENGINE---
THERE GOES MORGAN AGAIN--- THE MAN WHO LOVES A MOTOR!
24

LIEUTENANT BILNOR STILL REMEMBERED THOSE WORDS THAT MORGAN HAD UTTERED. IT WAS OUT ON THE FLIGHT LINE ONE AFTERNOON, WHEN BILNOR WAS CHECKING THE INSTALLATION OF NEW EQUIPMENT---

YOU'VE DONE A MASTERLY JOB. IT SURE TAKES KNOW-HOW---AND YOU'VE GOT IT.

YOU KNOW HOW IT IS, LIEUTENANT. WHEN YOU LIKE MECHANICS, YOU'VE PROBABLY TINKERED WITH MACHINERY SINCE YOU WERE A KID---AND THAT'S HOW IT WAS WITH ME.

HERE I AM, A TOP MECHANIC IN THE AIR FORCE--- KNOW HOW I GOT STARTED? HOT RODS! I WAS FASCINATED BY THEM AS FAR BACK AS HIGH SCHOOL--- NOT SO MUCH RACING THEM AS **FIXING** THEM!

"I STARTED IN BY GETTING A JOB AS A PART TIME MECHANIC AT A GAS STATION. THAT WAS AFTER SCHOOL 5 DAYS A WEEK AND ALL DAY SATURDAY---"

HOW ABOUT TAKING TIME OUT FOR A CUP OF COFFEE?

UH-UH. WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON A MOTOR, I LIKE TO STICK WITH IT TILL IT'S FIXED!

"THEN--- IT WAS JUST AFTER I FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL---"

GOT ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO, JACK? MAYBE STICK AROUND TOWN AND REPAIR MOTORS FOR A LIVING, HUH?

NOT A CHANCE. I WANT SOMETHING MORE COMPLEX THAN HOT ROD ENGINES OR THE CARS I GET TO WORK ON. SOMETHING WITH **CHALLENGE!**

"WELL--- WHAT ELSE THAN THE **UNITED STATES AIR FORCE?** IT GAVE ME A MAGNIFICENT OUTLET FOR MY ABILITIES AND INTERESTS..."

SUPPLIES BOTH FUEL & OXYGEN

ENERGY OF FUEL

FRONT ENTRY OF COMPRESSOR

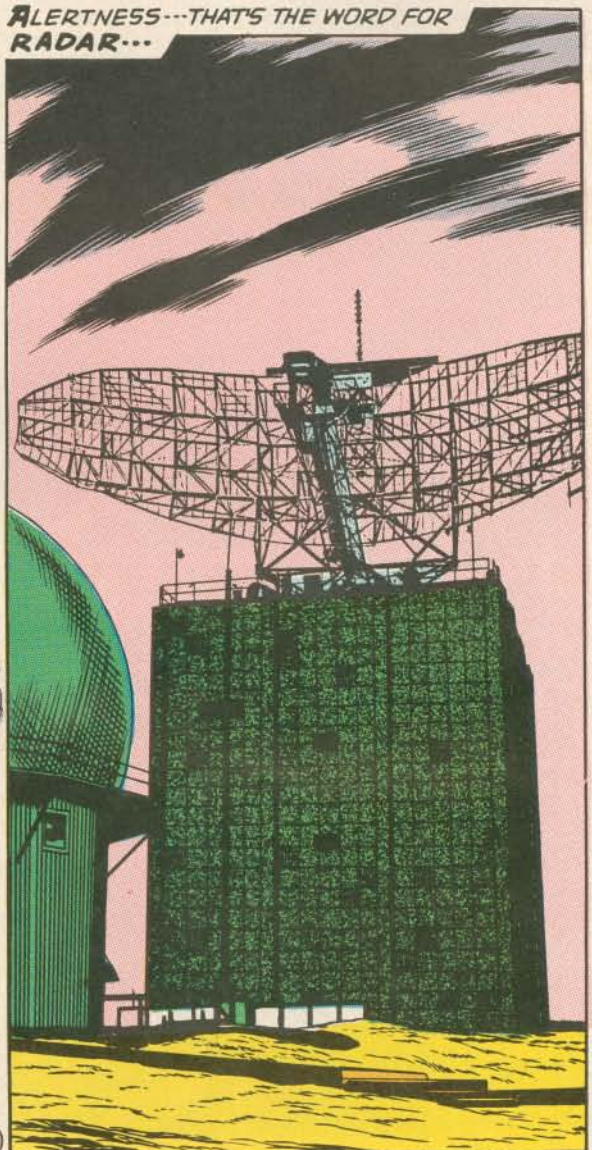
THIS IS FOR **ME!**

YES, JACK MORGAN WAS RIGHT---THE **USAF** WAS FOR HIM. HIS BASIC SKILLS PLUS ADDITIONAL AIR FORCE TRAINING ALLOWED HIM TO ADVANCE RAPIDLY IN RANK UNTIL HE BECAME GROUND CREW CHIEF FOR BILNOR---

BETTER WATCH OUT FOR LIEUTENANT BILNOR. HE'S PRETTY STRICT ABOUT HAVING HIS PLANE IN TOP CONDITION EVERY MINUTE.
HE'S **RIGHT**--- IT'S HIS LIFE AND A VALUABLE PIECE OF AMERICAN FLYING EQUIPMENT!

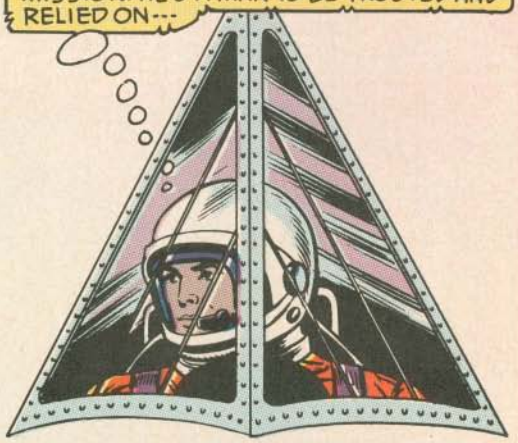
BUT THERE ARE OTHER "HIDDEN CREW" MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTE VITALLY TO THE SUCCESS OF LT. BILNOR'S MISSION. EVEN NOW, AS IT SPEEDS ALONG, AWAITING ITS FATEFUL ORDERS---

ALERTNESS---THAT'S THE WORD FOR **RADAR**---



AND HERE'S HARRY JENSEN, PERFORMING WITH ALL THE EXPERTNESS OF SOUND AIR FORCE TRAINING---

JENSEN---IT COULD HAVE BEEN HIS RADAR KNOW-HOW THAT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MISSION. HE'S A MAN TO BE TRUSTED AND RELIED ON---



HE'D ALWAYS BEEN THE KID WITH HIS NOSE BURIED IN A BOOK. SCIENCE FICTION, THAT WAS THE STUFF HE ALWAYS READ, AND HE WAS CRAZY ABOUT IT---

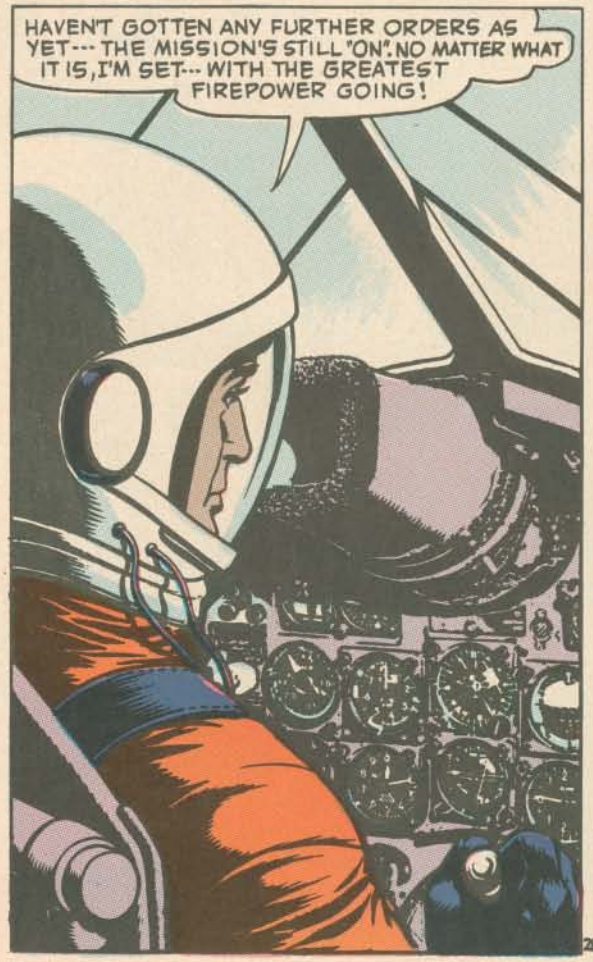
WHEN THE TIME CAME TO CHOOSE A CAREER, HE'D PICKED THE AIR FORCE. HE DIDN'T KNOW HIS OWN QUALIFICATIONS---

I GUESS I'M NOT GOOD FOR VERY MUCH---EXCEPT READING SCIENCE FICTION, MAYBE.
JUDGING FROM YOUR RESULTS ON THE AIRMAN QUALIFYING EXAM, YOU'RE GOOD FOR MAKING IT COME ALIVE! YOU'VE GOT A TECHNICAL, SCIENTIFIC MIND THAT'S HITTING ON ALL CYLINDERS, AND BELIEVE ME, THE AIR FORCE CAN USE YOUR TYPE OF GUY!

AFTER FURTHER EXAMINATIONS AT THE BASE, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO STUDYING RADAR ---AND HE WAS FASCINATED BY IT---

TODAY, HARRY JENSEN'S AN ACE RADAR REPAIR TECHNICIAN, HELPING THE HIDDEN CREW TO BE READY FOR ANY ENEMY SEEKING TO PIERCE AMERICAN DEFENSES---READY TO DETECT HIS PRESENCE AND FLASH THE WARNING---
WHATEVER IT IS--- I'M PREPARED FOR IT.

JENSEN'S VALUABLE ---I'M LUCKY TO HAVE HIM AS ONE OF MY "HIDDEN CREW".

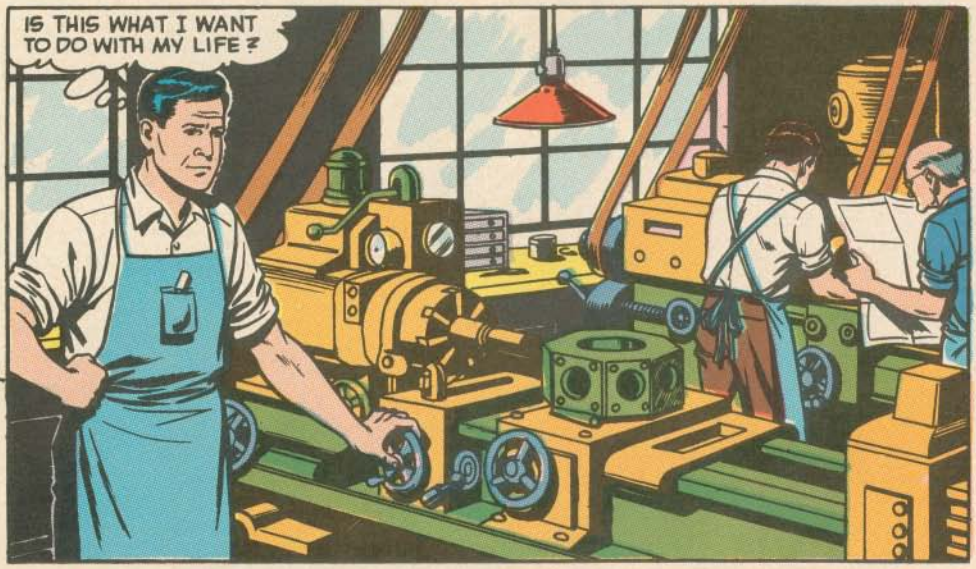

HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY FURTHER ORDERS AS YET--- THE MISSION'S STILL "ON". NO MATTER WHAT IT IS, I'M SET--- WITH THE GREATEST FIREPOWER GOING!

FIREPOWER---THE FOUR POWERFUL PACKAGES WITHIN THE FUSELAGE READY FOR DELIVERY---SPECIAL DELIVERY!

MY MISSILES MECH DESCRIBED IN DETAIL JUST WHAT THOSE FALCONS CAN DO. COME TO THINK OF IT, CODDY KNOWS QUITE A LOT ABOUT MISSILES OF ALL TYPES.

HE'D HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH AIRMAN TOM CODDY IN THE MISSILES STORAGE SHEDS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, AND HAD COME TO KNOW HIM WELL---

TOM CODDY WAS ANOTHER MEMBER OF BILNOR'S "HIDDEN CREW." HE'D BEEN GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND THEN HAD WORKED FOR A YEAR FOR AN APPLIANCE MANUFACTURER...



THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER TECHNICAL TRAINING CONVINCED HIM THAT A GOOD FUTURE WAS IN STORE IN CHOOSING THE AIR FORCE AS A CAREER---

HIS EXPERIENCE AND APTITUDE IN WORKING WITH ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS QUALIFIED HIM FOR A PLACE ON THE AEROSPACE TEAM ---

AND AS TIME WENT ON---

I NEVER KNEW WORK COULD BE SUCH **FUN!**

HE CAME TO KNOW AND BE EXPERT IN ALL OF THE SMALLER MISSILES THAT LOOMED LARGE IN AMERICA'S DEFENSE---

SIDEWINDER

FALCON

GENIE

HOUND DOG

---AND HE COULD BRING HIS KNOW-HOW TO THE BIG MISSILES WHICH OCCUPY PRIME POSITIONS IN AEROSPACE.

MINUTEMAN

THOR

ATLAS

TITAN

EVEN NOW ---

IF HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO USE THOSE FALCONS OF MINE ---THEY'RE READY FOR HIM!

AND AS FOR LIEUTENANT JAMES BILNOR---

I'M IN TOP MENTAL AND PHYSICAL SHAPE---I THINK I CAN HANDLE ANY EMERGENCY I'M CONFRONTED WITH. WHATEVER THIS TURNS OUT TO BE, **I'M READY FOR IT!**

THEY'RE **ALL** READY FOR IT---THE MEMBERS OF BILNOR'S "HIDDEN CREW" BACKING HIM UP EVERY INCH OF THE WAY!

SUDDENLY THE SHARP CRACKLE OF THE RADIO BROUGHT BILNOR TO THE READY. THE WORD HE HAD AWAITED---WHAT WAS IT GOING TO BE---?

HERE IT COMES!

ALL UNITS ARE INFORMED THAT THE MISSION IS PRACTICE AND AIR-CRAFT MAY RETURN TO BASE.

U.S. AIR FORCE FE-453

THE AWAITED WORD HAS GONE OUT TO PLANES THAT HAVE RESPONDED TO A SIGNAL TO GUARD AMERICAN LIBERTY. LIKE HOMING BIRDS, THE SPEEDING PLANES COME BACK---

BUT WHEN DANGER LOOMS, THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE **U.S. AIR FORCE**--- PILOTS AND CREWS ALOFT AND "HIDDEN CREWS" ON THE GROUND--- STAND READY FOR DEFENSE!

FOR A GREATER, SAFER AMERICA---THERE'S A PLACE FOR **YOU** ON THE **AEROSPACE TEAM!**

THE END.

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